

Library

BOROUGH OF TIVERTON

A N N U A L R E P O R T

For the Year 1957



PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE
AUTHORITY

(a)

Part time M.O.H.

G. Nicholson, M.D., F.R.C.S., D.P.H.

(b)

Chief Public Health Inspector and
Meat and Food Inspector

Charles Jeffries, M.A.P.H.I., C.R.S.I.

(c)

Additional Public Health Inspector

Gerald Hill, M.A.P.H.I., C.R.S.H.

REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
to the Borough of Tiverton.
For the year ended 31st. December, 1957

II, St. Peter Street,
Tiverton.

June, 1958.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to lay before you my Annual Report on the Health of the District for the year ending 31st. December, 1957.

Area. Although the Borough covers an area of 17,680 acres, the Town itself covers 300 acres only.

Population. Estimated 11,720.

Inhabited Houses. Number in 1957 was 3,484.

Rateable Value is £153,802.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate. £609

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

	Total.	Males.	Females.	
Live (Legitimate	203	106	97	) Birth Rate: 17.0 per 1000
Births (Illegitimate	7	2	5	
Still (Legitimate	2	2	Nil	) Total 2
Births (Illegitimate	Nil	Nil	Nil	

Corrected Birth Rate. 18.7 per 1000

Deaths...	...	172	74	98	Death Rate: 13.8 per 1000
Corrected Death Rate.	

Deaths from Pregnancy and Childbirth, 1; Puerperal Sepsis, 0; Congenital Malformation, 3.

Death rate of Infants under 1 year of age, 4.

Illegitimate infants under 1 year, Nil.

Deaths from Measles ... Nil.

" " Whooping Cough ... Nil.

" " Diarrhoea... ... I

Deaths from Cancer, 20

Uterus	-		Female	3
Breast	-	Male	"	1
Stomach	-	"	"	1
Lung	-	"	"	-
Other } -	"	5	"	2
Sites }				
		-----		-----
		13		7

This is I less than the previous year.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

- (1) Nursing in the Home. No change.
- (2) Domiciliary Midwifery is carried out by the two district nurses.
- (3) Laboratory Facilities. There are two in the Area - The County Laboratory and that connected with the Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital.

- (4) Hospitals. Post Hill Hospital caters for Medical and also convalescent cases.

Aged Sick. It is expected that the proposed appointment of a Geriatrician for the Mid Devon area, will rationalize the hospitalization of the aged sick.

I consider this should be of enormous benefit to this class of patient.

Infectious cases are sent to Whipton Isolation Hospital where accommodation is always adequate.

Tiwerton and District Hospital deals with Surgical, Medical and Maternity cases. There are 50 beds, 11 of which are devoted to Maternity cases. Bookings are carried out by the County Medical Officer. Maternity department is inclined to become overcrowded and it may become necessary to reduce bookings.

Exeter City Hospital - formerly entirely for aged sick is now taking a proportion of acute surgical and medical cases from this district.

An ante-natal Clinic is held every Tuesday at 2.30 p.m.
at the Tiverton and District Hospital.

A Tuberculosis Clinic is held at the Tiverton and District Hospital twice monthly.

- (5) Institutional Provision for Unmarried Mothers. None in the Area.
- (6) Ambulance Facilities. No change.
- (7) Social Worker in Mental Health and duly authorised officer -
Mr. W. P. Thomas, The Clinic, St. Andrew Street.
- (8) Clinics and Treatment Centres:-

Minor Ailments Clinic. Wednesdays 9 - 12 a.m.
Dr. Proctor-Sims and Mrs. Sparks, the Health Visitor, in attendance.

Remedial Exercise Clinic. Wednesdays 11 - 12 a.m.
Mrs. Sparks, the Health Visitor, in attendance.

Ophthalmic Clinic. 2nd Tuesdays in alternate months commencing January etc. Dr. Foxwell in attendance. By appointment.

Speech Therapy Clinics. Wednesdays 9 - 12 a.m. Miss Chapman, Speech Therapist, in attendance. Also 1st and 3rd Wednesday afternoons.

School Dental Service. Emergency treatment Wednesdays 9 - 12.30 a.m. 1.30 - 4 p.m. Other days by appointment. Mr. Clarke (Part time). Orthopontic treatment by Mr. Whitfield by appointment.

Maternity & Child Welfare Centre. This Centre is open weekly on Wednesdays, 2.0 to 4.0 p.m.

Relaxation Classes. Thursday afternoons 2 - 4 p.m. Run by Health Visitors. Thursday evenings 7 - 8.30 p.m. Run by District Nurse. Talks on elementary dietetics, care of baby etc.

The attendances for 1957 were as follows:-

Total infants attending for first time ...	III
" children, 1 to 5 years, attending for first time..	I8
Number on Register at end of year - Mothers ...	338
" " " " " " " - Infants ...	III
" " " " " " " - 1 to 5 years ...	227
Number of attendances during 1957 - Mothers ...	1641
" " " " " " " - Infants ...	1199
" " " " " " " - 1 to 5 years ...	783

The Mothers and Children have had supervision and advice both at the Welfare weekly by the Medical Officer and the Health Visitor, and in their houses by the Health Visitor. Simple treatment has been given where considered sufficient, in other cases the mothers were referred to their private doctor for treatment.

Home Help Service. Cases are dealt with direct through Mrs. Sparks the Health Visitor, in conjunction with the W.V.S. Some Maternity cases in the area are dealt with direct by the District Nurses.

The Orthopaedic Clinic was held on 52 Tuesdays during the year - Appointments are made by the Secretary, Mrs. D. A. Birch, and this works very well.

Number on Register, 1/1/57 ...	338
" " " 31/12/57 ...	318
Sessions held by Surgeons 48; After care Sister 27.	75
New Cases...	310
Discharges..	320
Admitted to Hospital ...	51
Average weekly attendance ...	24
Number of Attendances...	1440
Admissions: Adults...	263
School Age ...	28
Infants. ...	19
	310

Some of the elder patients have been trained at St. Loyes's College for the Disabled, in connection with the Clinic, the aim being the complete rehabilitation of the patients.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.

Scabies. Non reported during the year.

Diphtheria and Whooping Cough Immunization. Vaccination procedure administered by County Council and a Clinic is held for this purpose on each Wednesday. The majority of cases are dealt with by local doctors at their surgeries. The percentage of children immunised continues to be highly satisfactory.

Poliomyelitis. Registration for inoculation has proceeded a pace.

Tuberculosis. New Cases and Mortality in 1957.

Public Health. (Prevention of Tuberculosis Regulations, 1925)
No action taken.

Tuberculosis.

NEW CASES

DEATHS

Age Period.	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
I - 7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7 - 10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 - 14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
14 - 20	I	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 - 30	I	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
30 - 40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
40 - 50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
50 - 60	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
60 - 80	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
NK	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	4	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Notifiable Diseases.

Age Incidence.

Age Period.	Scarlet Fever	Dysentery	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Erysipelas
Under I year	-	-	-	-	-
I to 2	-	-	-	-	-
3 to 4	6	-	-	I	-
5 to 9	24	-	-	-	-
10 to 14	7	-	-	-	-
15 to 24	-	-	I	-	-
25 to 40	-	-	-	-	-
40 to 65	-	-	-	I	-
65 and over	-	-	-	3	-
Age Unknown	I	-	-	-	-
Totals	38	Nil	I	4	Nil

Age Period	Measles	Whooping Cough	Acute Poliomyelitis Paralytic/Non	Acute Encephalitis Infective Post Infective	Food Poisoning
Under I year	-	-	-	-	-
I to 2	2	-	-	-	-
3 to 4	10	-	-	-	-
5 to 9	3	-	-	-	-
10 to 14	2	-	-	-	-
15 to 24	-	-	-	-	-
25 to 40	-	-	-	-	-
40 to 65	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-	-
Age Unknown	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	17	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Public Health Act, 1925.

No action taken.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

GEORGE NICHOLSON

Medical Officer of Health

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

to the Borough of Tiverton

Ist. January to 31st. December, 1957.

Public Health Inspector's Office,
7 St. Peter Street,
Tiverton.

July, 1958.

To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Tiverton Borough Council.

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my twelfth Annual Report in connection with the duties of my department carried out during the year 1957.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water Supply.

- (1) The water supply for the Town has been satisfactory in quality and quantity.
- (2) Bacteriological examinations have been made at regular monthly intervals of the treated water going into supply. Water from the Allers supply (source springs at Norwood Common, supplemented by pumping from River Exe) is both filtered and chlorinated. Water from the Warnicombe supply is only chlorinated.
- (3) The waters have no plumbic-solvent action.
- (4) No contamination during year.
- (5) The population of the Borough is 11,720, occupying 3484 houses, the greater number of which are supplied by means of public mains.

RESULTS OF SAMPLING

<u>Source of Supply.</u>	<u>No. of Samples.</u>	<u>Satisfactory.</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory.</u>
Allers Public Main.	10	10	-
Warnicombe Public Main.	10	10	-
Farms and Other Premises.	29	12	17

Other Supplies.

One Chemical sample taken.

Advisory Visits.....22

FOOD

MEAT, MILK and OTHER FOODS.

Meat. 640 Visits of Inspection were made to the Horsdon Abattoir for the purpose of meat inspection. Ante-mortem inspection was a regular practise of the meat inspection service.

The following table lists the number of animals slaughtered during the year and gives details of the amount of meat and offals condemned as diseased or unsound:-

	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed	383	9	76	600	1496
Number Inspected... ..	383	9	76	600	1496
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT T.B.:-					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	44	5
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	128	7	-	30	93
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than T.B.	33.42%	77.78%	-	12.67%	6.55%
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY:-					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	6	1	-	-	45
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	1.57%	11.12%	-	-	3.07%

<u>BEEF</u>		
	<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Weight.</u>
<u>Offal.</u>	Various.	961 lbs.
<u>BEEF - Tuberculosis</u>		
<u>Parts of Carcasses</u>		
I	Tuberculosis.	94 lbs.
<u>Offal</u>	T.B.	120 lbs.
Total Weight of BEEF Condemned. 3 qrs. 10 lbs.		
" " " OFFAL " 9 cwts. 2 " 17 "		

SHEEP

<u>No. of Carcasses</u>	<u>Disease</u>	<u>Weight.</u>
7	Septicaemia.	433
2	Tetanus.	85
6	Septic Metritis.	379
2	Septic Mastitis.	157
3	Injuries.	212
6	Pregnancy Toxaemia.	450
5	Inflammation.	274
2	Septic Pleurisy.	127
1	Uraemia and General Jaundice.	80
4	Oedema and Emaciation.	144
<u>38</u>		<u>2341 lbs.</u>
<u>Parts of Carcasses</u>		
2	Injuries.	33 lbs.
<u>Offal.</u>	Various.	301 lbs.
Total Weight of MUTTON Condemned. 1 ton. 1 cwt. 0 qr. 22 lbs.		
" " " OFFAL " 2 " 2 " 21 "		

PIGS

<u>No of Carcasses</u>	<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Weight</u>
1	Urticaria.	140
3	Acute Pleurisy.	305
1	Acute Fever.	117
<u>5</u>		<u>562 lbs.</u>
<u>Parts of Carcasses</u>		
1	Abscess.	15
2	Acute Pleurisy.	111
2	Injuries.	75
1	Arthritis.	11
<u>6</u>		<u>212 lbs.</u>
<u>Offal.</u>	Various.	311 lbs.
<u>PIGS - Tuberculosis.</u>		
<u>Parts of Carcasses</u>		
43	Tuberculosis.	607 lbs.
<u>Offal</u>	T.B.	48 lbs.
Total Weight of PORK Condemned. 12 cwts. 1 qr. 9 lbs.		
" " " OFFAL " 3 " 0 " 23 "		

Condemned Meat is stained and collected for fertilizer manufacture. Condemned Food is used for pig food when practicable, otherwise destroyed on Council's refuse tip.

66 Visits made to shops for purpose of inspection and condemnation of unsound food.

The following is a list of food condemned:-

<u>Description</u>		<u>Weight</u>	<u>Description</u>		<u>Weight</u>	
		lbs.			lbs.	
Tinned	Meat.....	314	Tinned	Br/fd.	1328 $\frac{1}{4}$	
	Meat.....	177 $\frac{3}{4}$		Milk.....	17	
	Ham.....	75 $\frac{1}{4}$		"	Fish.....	187 $\frac{1}{2}$
	Soup.....	7		"	Puddings.....	6
	Vegetables.....	170 $\frac{3}{4}$		"	Marmalade.....	8
	Spaghetti.....	1		"	Cat Food.....	1
"	Fruit.....	582 $\frac{1}{2}$	Pkts.	Flour.....	7	
Cr/fd.		1328 $\frac{1}{4}$	Total		1554 $\frac{3}{4}$	

Total Weight of Food Condemned. 13 cwts. 3 qrs. 14 lbs. 12 ozs.

Milk and Other Foods

The number of food premises in the Council's area totals 181, made up as follows:-

Dairies...	...	...	...	10
Meat Purveyors (Butchers)...	...	...	...	14
Bakehouses	...	...	...	13
Fishmongers	...	...	...	3
Fish and Chip Friers..	...	...	...	5
Restaurants and Cafés.	...	...	...	5
Grocers...	...	...	...	40
Greengrocers	...	...	...	11
Confectioners...	...	...	...	16
Public Houses...	...	...	...	26
Off Licensed Premises.	...	...	...	8
Factory Canteens	...	...	...	3
Hospitals etc...	...	...	...	6
School Canteens.	...	...	...	15
Boarding Houses etc...	...	...	...	6
				<u>181</u>

Registered Premises under Sec.16 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955.

Manufacture, Storage and Sale of Ice Cream...	53
Preparation etc. and Sale of Sausages, or Preserved Foods...	17
Dairies...	10

34 Inspections were carried out at Registered Food Premises, including dairies; In all cases of premises selling Ice Cream, refrigerators were inspected for cleanliness and temperature readings were taken. In every case the refrigerators were found to be efficient and temperatures satisfactory.

Although Ice Cream is sold from 53 premises it is manufactured on the premises in only two instances.

The Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc) Regulations are strictly enforced. The standard of personal cleanliness in all registered premises was found to be generally high.

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.

Visits to food premises and inspections of delivery vans totalled 331. Contraventions were noted in respect of the following Regulations and offenders notified, and follow up visits made.

Regulation 6	{Articles of Equipment)...	...	...	5
" 8	{Prevention of Contamination of Food).	16		
" 9	{Personal Cleanliness) ...	...	...	1
" 14	{Sanitary Conveniences etc.) ...	...	...	14
" 16	{Wash-hand Basins etc.)...	...	...	15
" 17	{First Aid Equipment) ...	...	...	7
" 18	{Accommodation for Outdoor Clothing)..	4		
" 19	{Washing facilities for food utensils and equipment) ...	...	...	1
" 20	{Lighting of rooms)..	...	...	3
" 21	{Ventilation of rooms) ...	...	...	4
" 23	{X Cleanliness and disrepair)...	...	...	19
	X Mainly disrepair and structural alterations.			
" 24	{Accumulation of refuse)..	...	...	3

During the year systematic routine inspections were again carried out and extensive structural improvements and provision of hygienic fittings as required by the Food Hygiene Regulations were carried out in respect of 58 premises.

In the course of routine visits of inspection advice is tendered to management and staff on food handling.

Delivery and handling of Meat.

The Public Health Committee has been very concerned at the manner in which meat is delivered by firms from outside the Council's area to shops in Tiverton.

Frequent inspections were made and warnings given to the firms concerned.

It was also found that meat was being delivered which had not been inspected by a meat inspector and steps were taken to prevent this practise.

SLUM CLEARANCE

During 1957 the Council passed resolutions declaring the following areas to be "Clearance Areas".

	<u>Number of Houses.</u>
(1) Candy's and Trickey's Court.	7
(2) Belmont Road.	4
(3) Seward's Court & Leat Street.	16
Total	27

The demolition of 58 houses in the West Exe South Nos. 1 and 2 Areas was carried out and completed during the year, and 54 families were rehoused.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

11 applications were received of which approval was finally agreed upon in 9 cases.

During the year 7 Completion Certificates were issued.

Factories in Detail.			Inspections.		
Premises		Number on Register	Inspections	Number of	
(1)	(2)			Written Notices (5)	Occupiers Prosecuted (6) (7)
(i) Factories in which Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.		25	18	3	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.		92	62	17	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.		24	73	-	-
Totals		141	153	20	-

Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars		Number of Cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted	
		Found	Remedied	Referred -			
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	By H.M. Inspector (6)	(7)	(8)
Want of cleanliness.		3	-	-	-	-	
Overcrowding.		-	-	-	-	-	
Unreasonable temperature.		-	-	-	-	-	
Inadequate ventilation.		-	-	-	-	-	
Ineffective drainage of floors.		-	-	-	-	-	
Sanitary conveniences.							
(a) insufficient.		-	3	-	3	-	
(b) unsuitable or defective.		1	6	-	6	-	
(c) not separate for sexes.		-	1	-	1	-	
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork).		16	8	-	-	-	
Totals		20	17	-	10	-	

OUTWORK

Number of Out-workers required by Sect. 110.

Class	I	...	6
"	3	...	7
"	29	...	24

RODENT CONTROL

Properties Inspected.

Local Authority	...	29
Dwelling Houses	...	139
Business Premises	...	85
Agricultural	...	<u>119</u>
Total		<u>372</u>

71 poison treatments were carried out, in addition to the systematic treatments with the gin traps.

Mr. Luxon's conscientious and efficient work as usual has gone far in keeping the Town and environs free from dangerous and troublesome pests.

PETROLEUM (CONSOLIDATION) ACT, 1928.

47 Licences were re-issued for the storage of 37,820 gallons of Petroleum Spirit, and 1,930 Petroleum Mixtures.

1 Licence re-issued for storage of Carbide of Calcium.

EXPLOSIVES ACT, 1875.

27 applications were received for the registration of premises for the storage of gunpowder and mixed explosives, and Certificates of Registration were granted.

141 Inspections were carried out in connection with the above Acts.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS MADE DURING THE YEAR

Water Samples taken:- Public Mains...	20
Other Premises & Farms.	29
Chemical	1
Advisory Visits...	22
Slaughterhouse	640
Dairies... ..	40
Food & Drugs Act... ..	99
Re-Visits.	232
Shops Act	3
Ice Cream	8
Food Shops re. Condemned Food...	66
Factories Act.	153
Inspections re. Complaints	155
Re-Visits	480
Drainage	391
Disinfection and Disinfestation. ...	36
Infectious Diseases... ..	4
Keeping of Animals	1
Caravans	21
Slum Clearance Inspections & Revisits	408
Housing Act Visits	46
Improvement Grants	94
Pet Animals Act... ..	16
Rodent Control	24
Food Poisoning	-
Council's Points Scheme:- Inspections	50
Re-Visits..	74
Allocation.	171
Petroleum and Explosives Licensing...	141
Miscellaneous	<u>144</u>
Total	<u>3569</u>

Conclusion.

Since the department was adequately staffed it has been possible to give all the duties of the office proper attention and I am grateful to the Council for this.

I and my staff hope to continue to serve the interests of the Council conscientiously and loyally.

I remain,

Your Obedient Servant,

CHARLES JEFFRIES

Chief Public Health Inspector